



Noah's Ark

What if Noah's Ark Lends Meaning to a Potential Journey for Both Pandas and Humans?

Nurin Abdullah



Personal Reflections

In future giant pandas could be left hungry and struggling to survive owing to insufficient food supplies – i.e. bamboo. The question is, how will there be any bamboo left for pandas when human developments are slowly wiping out most of the bamboo fields in the world? What can pandas do in response? Is it necessary for them to migrate? The hypothetical concept here is to create a journey emulating the migration of pandas from one place to another in order to look for their source of food. The structure is an attempt to symbolise the creation of Noah's Ark which is to protect pandas from harm or, in this case, starvation. Supporting this idea, plans for bamboo plantations in China are intensively underway which will play a significant role in solving this problem.

Mobilising the Habitat (A > B > C > D and repeat)

This proposal is an experimental suggestion. The objective is to provide a mobile structure that is periodically able to change the habitat without necessitating any natural demolition and is able to offer endless bamboo supplies for pandas. The structure

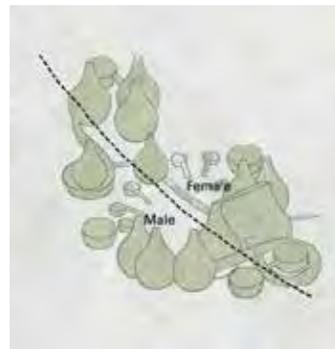
will be situated for a maximum of three years at each location, allowing enough time for the bamboo on site to grow and mature for pandas to consume it. For ease of handling, parts of the structure can be assembled and dissembled.

Maximising the Habitat

Other than supplying pandas with bamboo, the aim is to give pandas more freedom to roam about within their natural and original habitat without any obstructive barriers or differences in temperature. This demands more space for them to interact with each other, with the ability to develop physically and cognitively.

Endless Movement and Multiple Experiences

This project represents an exploration for humans too who trace the experience of pandas on their migration journey in search of food. A long and endless trail begins with visitors' arrival on site on a hot air balloon. They then stroll around site without any end point or destination. The trail and materials create multiple interactions for both pandas and humans with flora and fauna at different latitudes.



Separation

The long trail is created with the help of subtle elements. It creates a separation of the two genders.



Floating

Structures are located at different height and levels, mimic the site contours making them look as if its elevated and floating on the air.



Landscape as Structure

Using vegetation as part of the structure stimulates a sense of common homeland with the pandas.

Original Habitat:

Southern China

Site A

Qingchen Mountain,
Dujiangyan

Site B

Chongqing Huangshan,
Yangtze River

Site C

Chinshui Bamboo Forest Chinsui,
Zunyi

Site D

Shunan Bamboo Forest
Yibin, China

- 01 Landing Port (Visitors)
- 02 Landing Port (Staff)
- 03 Ticket and Souvenir Booth
- 04 Seating Area
- 05 Café
- 06 Indoor Enclosure (F)
- 07 Indoor Enclosure (M)
- 08 Veterinary Clinic
- 09 Training Cage/Nursing Area
- 10 Training Cage
- 11 Washroom
- 12 Changing Rooms/Rest Area
- 13 Playgrounds
- 14 Outdoor Enclosure (900sqm)



Multi-Purpose Structures

According to the animal needs and condition the multi-functional structures can be assemble or disassemble very easily.



Zootopia

Platforms are elevated on different levels and create the impression of a flowing structure, like floating in the air.



Circulation

A guided endless circulation, without having an ending point. The structure allows different places and views of nature.



Sections and Perspective



Landing Port

A landing space for the hot air balloons to land and this module act as the entrance/exit point to the visitors.

No. of Units: 1
Total area: 50sqm



Landing Port

A landing space for the hot air balloons to land. This module can only be used by staff for the ingress and egress of loading purposes.

No. of Units: 4
Total area: 50sqm



Ticket & Souvenir Booth

Function as a space for the staff to sell the zoo tickets and souvenirs for the visitors.

No. of Unit: 1
Total area: 70sqm



Seating Area

Semi-covered space for visitors to seat and »search« for the pandas which are roaming underneath of the structure. This module allows maximal viewing by showcasing the panoramic views.

No. of Units: 2
Total area: 50sqm



Café

Provide a tea-house cafe at the other end of the entrance. This module located at higher levels to allow the visitors to enjoy tea and scenery after they have experienced panda's migration journey.

No. of Units: 1
Total area: 35sqm



Pantry at Café

Function as a space for the staff to heat up tea or beverage, and desserts for the visitors migration journey.

No. of Units: 1
Total area: 35sqm



Indoor Enclosure

Consists of Indoor enclosure of both genders of the panda. Allowing the visitors to enjoy and observe both of the animal's behaviors

No. of Units: 2
Total area: 170sqm



Training Cage/Nursing Area

No. of Units: 2
Total area: 50sqm

Veterinary Clinic

No. of Units: 2
Total area: 70sqm



Provide a sufficient necessity for both staff and visitors

Washroom and Lounge Area

No. of Unit: 1
Total area: 35sqm

Changing and Resting Area

No. of Unit: 3
Total area: 13sqm



Playground: Feeding Stage

A landing space for the hot air balloons to land and this module act as the entrance/exit point to the visitors.

No. of Unit: 3
Total area: 13sqm



Playground Pool

For the pandas to have some fun with water, to swim or to drink. Water will be checked and filled regularly by staff.

No. of Unit: 2
Total area: 13sqm



Playground: Climbing

A solid climbing structure for the pandas to cling onto when they are at outdoor enclosure.

No. of Unit: 2
Total area: 13sqm



Modules

Instead of creating artificial worlds for pandas in zoological gardens, »Noah's Ark« constructs transportable shelters for the endangered animals, ones which can be easily found and visited by humans. The journey to the site is made by hot-air balloon,

since there are no roads leading to the pandas' habitat and the mobile structures are to be set up at ever new places in the forest that have sufficient food resources. The experience will thus evoke associations with the exotic adventures such as those

portrayed by Jules Verne. What remains is the shape of the hot-air balloon, which now no longer rises but, freed from its envelope, hangs down as a strutted structure like an oversized hanging chair and is attached to the existing wilderness. In these

structures are not only the pandas, but also the people, so that both are equally shielded from a potentially hostile environment.

»In presence of Nature's grand convulsions, man is powerless.« *Jules Verne*

